



"Show Boat: The Making of An Epoch"

by Dr. Richard Ziegfeld

Edna Ferber's best-selling novel about Mississippi River life and Jazz-Age Chicago became the most influential Broadway musical of all time. As a relative of Florenz Ziegfeld, the man responsible for the original Broadway production of *Show Boat*, Dr. Richard Ziegfeld provides a behind-the-scenes perspective on the moments of inspiration, the tension between a woman writer and a male-dominated world of theater artists, the titanic clashes of creative ego and the historic breakthrough that occurred when *Show Boat* burst onto the scene. Dr. Ziegfeld also introduces Broadway's greatest impresario and a cast of intriguing characters, including Ferber, Jerome Kern, Oscar Hammerstein and others. Here are the tales of life in literary New York during the Jazz Age: Ziegfeld asking his friend Irving Berlin to write the score to *Show Boat* only to have the venerable composer tell him the show has no chance on Broadway and Edna Ferber commenting on what she thinks needs to be improved before the stage production moves from Washington tryouts to a New York opening. With its story of romance, miscegenation, intrigue, alcoholism, desertion and heartbreak, *Show Boat* shocked the American public with its bold treatment of taboo subjects. In its dramatic version, it also transformed musical theater into the form we know today.

Dr. Richard Ziegfeld is author or editor of 12 books on theater, literature and computers. He has 15 years of experience in professional writing, computer-based training and education. He holds a B.A. from Luther College and three graduate degrees from the University of Texas - M.A.'s in German and English literature and a Ph.D. in comparative literature. His books include a recently published biography entitled *The Ziegfeld Touch: The Life and Times of Florenz Ziegfeld*. Dr. Ziegfeld works for Tal-Cut Corporation, a NASA engineering service contractor, where he is involved in business communications. Previously he was a software editor for McDonnell Douglas in Denver. And prior to that he was on the faculty of the English Department at the University of South Carolina. He also operates a writing and editing business that is engaged in a wide range of projects. In 1991, he was appointed to the Advisory Board for the Robert Lewis Medal for Lifetime Achievement for Theater Research.



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The Natchez Democrat
June 3, 1995 (Saturday)

Ziegfeld, 'Show Boat' linked forever

By JOAN GANDY
Special to The Democrat

History has linked forever the names "Show Boat" and Ziegfeld. At the 1995 Natchez Literary Celebration, those two names will share the spotlight again.

Florenz Ziegfeld took Edna Ferber's epic novel to the Broadway musical stage in 1927. Now a relative, Richard Ziegfeld, has revived the "Show Boat" connection in numerous works describing how the world-famous musical took shape almost 70 years ago.



Richard Ziegfeld today at 1:30 p.m. at Natchez City Auditorium will introduce a free showing of the 1936 movie version of "Show Boat." Later, at 7:30 p.m., he will present an illustrated lecture, "'Show Boat': The Making of an Epoch," which will be followed by a concert of "Show Boat" and patriotic music by the U.S. Marine Corps Band of New Orleans. The lecture and concert also are free and open to the public.

An author and a computer consultant in Cleveland, Ohio, Ziegfeld describes his relative's production of "Show Boat" as

having transformed musical theater into the form known today.

"The press immediately declared it 'the best musical show ever written,'" Ziegfeld said. "Critic Brooks Atkinson dubbed it 'one of those epochal works about which garrulous old men gabble for 25 years after the scenery has rattled off to the storehouse.'"

The musical was written by Oscar Hammerstein II with music by Jerome Kern. "'Show Boat' is the haunting story of romantic love tested by tribulation, and its universal themes about suffering and inequity lead to potent dra-

matic tension," Ziegfeld said. "But most of all the soaring music that captures the spirit of the era gives 'Show Boat' its timeless appeal."

The 1936 film was chosen over other versions to show Celebration participants because it is "the absolute best," Ziegfeld said.

As compared to the 1950 version, for example, the earlier one is a "more potent rendition of the story, with better acting, better vocal ability among the stars; it is more accurate historically and, also, it used some cast members from the Broadway production," he added.

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'Show Boat' nominated for 10 Tony Awards

By MICHAELA GIBSON

The Natchez Democrat

When the Natchez Literary Celebration throws its "An Evening with Show Boat," it will have more to celebrate.

"Show Boat," which features Natchez in many of its scenes and used old photographs of Natchez to design its set, has been nominated for 10 Tony Awards, more than any other Broadway production this year. The Tony Awards honor the best plays and musicals on Broadway.

"Show Boat" is one of two shows nominated for best musical revival. "Show Boat's" Hal Prince also was nominated for best director. Cast members were nominated for best actor in a musical, best actress in a musical, best featured

actor in a musical and best featured actress in a musical.

"Show Boat" also was nominated for best costume design and best choreography. The winners will be announced Sunday on CBS.

In Natchez on Saturday, the day before the Tony awards, the Natchez Literary Celebration plans to recreate the magic and glitz of the Broadway opening of "Show Boat."

Anticipation of the awards announcement will lend magic to the Natchez celebration, said Laura Godfrey, one of the Natchez Literary Celebration organizer. "It will heighten the excitement."

In addition to a concert featuring the score from "Show Boat" and a culinary journey down the Mississippi, Richard Ziegfield, son of the

Florenz Ziegfield Jr., who produced the original 1927 Broadway production of "Show Boat" also will give a presentation, Godfrey said.

"It's just very exciting; it's great for Natchez," Godfrey said.

Already, "Show Boat" has been recognized as one of the top musicals of the season. "Show Boat" was named best musical production of the New York theater season Sunday by the Drama Desk, a group of theater critics, editors and reporters.

"Show Boat" won four other Drama Desk awards including best director-musical for Prince, and prizes for sets, costumes and lighting.

The evening at the Eola Hotel will recreate the premiere of the

Broadway show in food and exhibits.

A multi-media presentation of scenes from "Show Boat" as well as photographs by Barbara Gerard Kaiser of Natchez people and Broadway stars attending the Oct. 2, 1994, party in New York will be on display.

For those who never saw the show or who want to see it again, it will play continuously throughout the party.

Large photographs from Tom and Joan Gandy's Norman Collection which were used by "Show Boat" producers for numerous scenes in the Broadway hit will also be shown, as well as posters from promotions.

Tickets for the event are \$20. Reservations must be made today.

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For Today's Celebration



The Natchez Literary Celebration includes mostly free events. All events are located at the City Auditorium unless otherwise stated. The lecture and events schedule is as follows:

Friday, June 2:

■ 9 a.m. Herschel Gower of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., will present "Charles G. Dahlgren of Natchez: Into Cotton and a Lot Else."



Gower



Blockson

■ 10 a.m. Charles L. Blockson of Temple University in Philadelphia, Pa., will present "African-American History Above Ground and Underground."

■ 10:45 a.m. Ronald L.F. Davis of California State University at Northridge will present "The Reconstruction Era: The Emergence of John Roy Lynch and Other Outstanding Black Political Leaders."



Davis



Hawks

■ 11:45 a.m. Lunch at Carriage House Restaurant and program by John Allen Collier of Southaven, "Reminiscences of a Mississippi Delta Plantation."

■ 1:30 p.m. Joanne Hawks of the University of Mississippi in Oxford will present "Cotton Shaped Her Life: Julia A. Nutt of Longwood in Natchez (1822-1897)"



Rankin



Lytle

■ 3 p.m. Tom Rankin of the University of Mississippi and filmmaker Emma Knowlton Lytle of Gunnison will present the film "Raisin' Cotton in the Mississippi Delta: A Day in the Life of Perthshire Plantation."



Angelou

■ 4-7 p.m. Tour of "Natchez in Historic Photos" at Stratton Chapel Gallery, Museum of Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture, Bontura, Longwood (5-7 p.m. only), and refreshments and fashion show at Melrose (\$15 ticket)

■ 8 p.m. Maya Angelou of Wake Forest University in Greensboro, N.C., will present a talk titled, "The Value of Ethnic, Economic and Religious Diversity in All Undertakings." She is the author of "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings." (\$15 ticket)

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The Natchez Democrat
Sun., June 4, 1992

South engrosses author Ziegfeld ^{Pg 9A}

By MIKE WILLEY
The Natchez Democrat

Richard Ziegfeld first visited Natchez 20 years ago as a college student. "I was engrossed by the romanticism of the South, the way in which the South was the guardian of an era," Ziegfeld said.

A relative of Florenz Ziegfeld, the Broadway impresario responsible for the original production of "Show Boat," Ziegfeld visited Jackson and Oxford, as well as Natchez on that memorable trip. "I particularly remember the magic of the night, standing up on the Natchez bluff, looking out over the river," he said. "It was one of those seminal experiences which gave me an interest in Southern literature."

Ziegfeld ended up taking his Ph.D. in comparative literature from the University of Texas, and his dissertation, in part, was based on William Faulkner. Florenz Ziegfeld, however, never made it to the scene of "Show Boat," according to Richard Ziegfeld. "His shows normally didn't tour south of Dayton and Cincinnati, Ohio," said Ziegfeld, citing difficulties with the Ziegfeld shows' use of black cast members.

Nor did Edna Ferber, the author

of the novel on which the Ziegfeld musical was based, ever visit Natchez, according to Ziegfeld. "She did extensive research," he said.

On Saturday, Richard Ziegfeld brought "Show Boat" to Natchez. First he introduced a free showing of the 1936 film version of "Show Boat" to participants of the Natchez Literary Celebration. Ziegfeld said the 1936 version is the "absolute best" of several versions.

Then, Ziegfeld offered the final lecture of the literary celebration. "'Show Boat' is the most influential Broadway musical of all time," said Ziegfeld, who also attended the revival of "Show Boat" in New York last October. "Show Boat" transformed musical theater, according to Ziegfeld, who cited its story of romance, miscegenation, intrigue, alcoholism and desertion as responsible for breaking some formerly held taboos.

Ziegfeld has noticed some changes in the South since he last visited here 20 years ago. "I've noticed that black political figures are in much greater evidence. I want to be cautious, but it appears to me that there's been progress in many areas," Ziegfeld said.



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The Natchez Democrat/Literary Board

TOUR: Debbie Cannon, far left, talks history during a tour of Longwood as part of the Natchez Literary Celebration Friday afternoon. Tours of Bontura and Melrose were also given for the event. The tours correspond with the theme, "The Impact of Cotton on Lifestyles in Natchez."

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Natchez LITERARY

Saturday, June 3, 1995

The Natchez Democrat
Pg. 1A

CELEBRATION

Longwood stands as monument to Nutt's

'King Cotton' proves to be tyrant
for woman left alone after Civil War

hard life

By MIKE WILLEY
The Natchez Democrat

Introduced as "a great southern scholar of women's study," Joanne Hawks sketched the life of Julia Nutt, the mistress of Longwood, for participants of Friday's continuing lecture series at the Natchez Literary Celebration.



"Cotton
Shaped Her Hawks

Life" was the theme of Hawks' talk about the widow of Haller Nutt, the builder of Longwood.

Construction of the elaborate, octagonal, Natchez mansion was interrupted by the Civil War and Nutt, himself, died during the war. Left to fend with the crushing debt and decreasing fortunes of the Nutt property, Julia Nutt became an

emblem of the woman who must work through adversity.

Left with seven surviving children, an unfinished mansion and property which was overrun by both Confederate and Union forces, Julia Nutt "spent 30 years awaiting, hoping for and despairing of payment" for her losses, according to Hawks.

Hawks, who is director of the Sarah Horn Center for Women's Studies at the University of Mississippi, detailed the crushing conditions with which Nutt had to deal. Saddled with a \$3 million debt, Nutt tried unsuccessfully to exact payment from the federal government for damages suffered during the war.

Since only one floor of Longwood was finished before the war began and workmen fled, Nutt and her children had to make do with what was supposed to be a "fairly-like castle set in verdant surroundings."

Nutt said in a letter, "This is the shell of a house rotting down over our heads; I feel like a person in an iron cage."

According to Hawks, "King Cotton proved to be a heartless tyrant, neither letting his subjects go or supporting them properly."

By the 1890s, cotton prices had slumped to seven and a half cents a pound, and Nutt wrote a friend that she had only 34 bales to sell, far less than she needed to meet immediate needs.

Julia Nutt died in 1897 and was buried at Longwood, the mansion which had become known to Natchezians as "Nutt's Folly." Now, still largely uncompleted, Longwood belongs to the Pilgrimage Garden Club, and is a monument of sorts to a woman who Hawks said "had to eke out a living on a declining cotton plantation in the Natchez District."

Hawks currently teaches a course titled, "Women in the South," at Ole Miss. The course is a study of the experiences of Southern Women as revealed through their writings.

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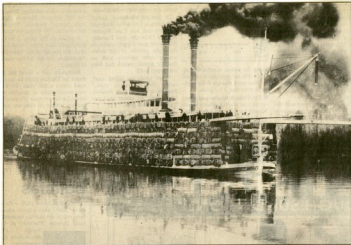
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The Natchez Democrat FOR THE RECORD

Looking back

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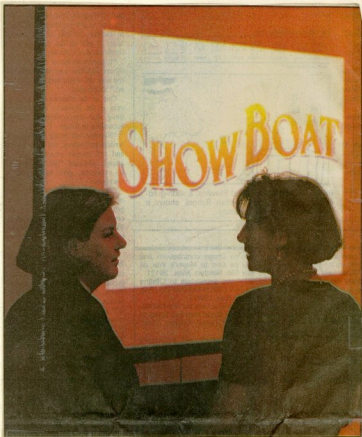
The Natchez Democrat/Photo courtesy of Dr. Thomas H. Gentry

THE AMERICA: No rival of the soon-to-be-launched and very fancy American Queen, the 19th Century steamboat, America, demonstrates one of its strong points — carrying many bales of cotton. Built in 1889 for Capt. L.V. Cooley of New Orleans, the America retired from the river at New Orleans in 1926. When Cooley died and was buried in New Orleans in 1931, the bell from the America was hung over his grave. "King Cotton: Its Enduring Literary Legacy" is the theme of this year's Natchez Literary Celebration which began Thursday and continues through Saturday.

The Natchez Democrat

MONDAY, JUNE 5, 1995

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The Natchez Democrat/Kevin Cooper

SHOWBOAT MEMORIES: Liza Sharp, owner of Liza's Contemporary Cuisine, and Stephanie Anderson are silhouetted as they watch a slide show from the Broadway premiere of "Show Boat" Saturday night at the finale of the Natchez Literary Celebration at the Eola Hotel. About 400 people attended the "Culinary Journey on the Mississippi River."



Duncan Morgan



Elbert Hilliard



Marion & Carolyn Smith
George & Margaret Moss

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Carolyn Vance Smith
John Guice





Bettina Barnes, Carolyn Vance Smith



William Banks Taylor



Herschel Gower



Charles L. Blockson

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David Sansing
Margaret Walker
Alexander



William Winter
Margaret Walker
Alexander



BLUFF CITY

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POST

Mrs. Carolyn Vance Smith
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Co-Lin Community College
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NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI 39120

Gift Ideas

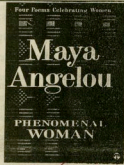
(NAPS)—You probably consider your mother a pretty phenomenal woman. Now, there's a special way you can tell her so.

Dr. Maya Angelou, the poet, author, playwright, producer, educator, speaker, activist and actress who recited her work at President Clinton's Inauguration, has put together a collection of poems about women.

Phenomenal Woman (Random House, \$10) is a beautifully bound hard cover book that celebrates many aspects of womanhood with a majesty that has inspired and touched the hearts of millions. The book includes the title poem, "Phenomenal Woman," "Still I Rise," "Weekend Glory" and "Our Grandmothers," among the most remembered and acclaimed of her poems.

A great gift for Mother's Day or any occasion—even for no occasion at all—it can make everyone proud to be or know a special woman.

The author is a remarkable woman herself, in many fields. Her awards and honors include an Emmy nomination for her role in "Roots," and a Tony nomination for her performance in *Look Away*. She has received a Pulitzer Prize nomination for *Just Give Me A Cool Drink of Water Fore I Die* and a National Book Award Nomination for *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. She was named "Woman of the Year" by *Ladies Home Journal* in 1976 and *Essence* magazine in 1992. She won the Matrix Award, the Langston Hughes Award and the Horatio Alger Award. She has over 30 honorary doctorate degrees.



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The work of such a woman, many would agree, can be a terrific gift for the great women in your life. You may care to call local bookstores to see which have it in stock.

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Natchez Democrat
Fri, June 2, 1995
Pg 9A

Californian to talk about his 'special place'

By JOAN GANDY

Special to The Democrat

A California professor will share years of Natchez research when he addresses participants at the 1995 Natchez Literary Celebration in early June.

With his lecture, "The Reconstruction Era: The Emergence of John Roy Lynch and Other Outstanding Black Political Leaders," Ronald L. F. Davis of California State University at Northridge will illuminate an era in Natchez history which only now is beginning to unfold due to his interest.

Davis, 51, will speak at Natchez City Auditorium today at 10:45 a.m. as part of the celebration. The theme of the celebration is "King Cotton: Its Enduring Literary Legacy."

His interest in African-American history led Davis to Natchez in 1968, when he was a graduate student at the University of Missouri. Looking for a location in which to study the transition from slavery to share-cropping, Davis found a treasure of historical records and a town where time had enriched rather than ravaged resources.

"From the very first time here, I knew it was a special place," Davis said on one of his frequent visits. "I always felt I was in Brigadoon when I came to Natchez. I was afraid it was not going to be here when I came back."

A professor at Northridge since 1970, Davis now regularly brings history students with him to Natchez in groups of 15 to 20. His university pays for travel and expenses.

Those graduate students have chosen and researched topics, some for publication, and have

been profoundly affected by Natchez, Davis said.

"The Natchez experience has changed their lives fundamentally," Davis said. "At least 20 students have expressed a burning desire to live in Natchez or to be intellectually involved with Natchez for the rest of their lives."

Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman of the Literary Celebration, said having lecturers such as Davis, with his deep interest in Natchez history, provides the best possible program for symposium participants.

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Mississippi Magazine Special Advertising Sect. Continued

50 FUN THINGS to do this Summer



Stanton Hall

While you're in **NATCHEZ**, take time to enjoy some of our year-round activities as well as our festive occasions! Experience the rustic atmosphere of Under-the-Hill. Try your luck at the riverboat. Take a nostalgic tour in a horse-drawn carriage or a ride in a trolley. Stroll through lush grounds and magnificent gardens. And encounter the highest degree of good taste and refinement in Natchez's gracefully warm, invitingly hospitable homes.

Come join us for these and many other events throughout the year, such as **MARDI GRAS** - February • **SPRING PILGRIMAGE** - March • **OPERA FESTIVAL** - May • **LITERARY CELEBRATION** - June • **FALL PILGRIMAGE** - October • **CHRISTMAS IN NATCHEZ** - December. For more information call The Natchez Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-800-647-6724.



Cover Pages

Spring 1995
Volume III, No. 3



Cover to Cover Books & More

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King Cotton

The 1995 Natchez Literary Celebration will educate and entertain you June 1-3 with the theme "King Cotton: Its Enduring Literary Legacy." Carolyn Vance Smith has Laura Godfrey and crew from Co-Lin, State Archives and History, and the National Park Service all in high gear as the event nears. Outstanding lecturers include the popular Dr. Robert Remini, Dr. Douglas Inglis, and Dr. Bertram Wyatt Brown who has recently assumed editorship of the Southern Biography Series at LSU Press. The U.S. Marine Corps Band will perform as well as the esteemed educator/poet Dr. Maya Angelou. For information and tickets call 601-446-5874.

♦ New from Random House is a collection of four Angelou poems celebrating women, *Phenomenal Women*. Her autobiographical *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* is a fixture on the *New York Times* Best Seller List. ♦

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The Sixth Annual

Natchez Literary Celebration

presents

**King Cotton:****Its Enduring Literary Legacy**

June 1 - 3, 1995 • Natchez, Mississippi

For more than two centuries, cotton has ranked as the South's most important agricultural crop. No wonder this fluffy white stuff has inspired so much literature: history, biography, fiction, drama, poetry, and even Broadway musicals!

Plan now to attend the low-cost 1995 Natchez Literary Celebration.

Awaiting you:

- A presentation by the poet and educator, **Maya Angelou, June 2**
- Lectures by a dozen other nationally known authors and scholars
- A salute to *Show Boat*, the Broadway revival of Edna Ferber's famous novel set in Natchez
- Historic house tours, an ETV documentary about Richard Wright, a concert, entertainments, and more

For more information, call

1-800-647-6724 or 601-446-6345

Natchez Convention & Visitors Bureau

For ticket information, call

1-800-862-3259 or 601-445-0353

Natchez Box Office

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Natchez Literary Celebration

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ADMIT ONE

**COTTON LIFESTYLES:
A TOUR OF NATCHEZ - \$15**

Friday, June 2, 1995

4-7 p.m. Tours and Exhibits Stratton Chapel Gallery,
NAPAC Museum, Bontura, and Melrose
Refreshments, 4-7 p.m., Melrose
Fashion Show, 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., Melrose
5-7 p.m. Tour Longwood
Natchez, Mississippi

Natchez Literary Celebration

578

ADMIT ONE - \$20

**A CULINARY JOURNEY
ON THE RIVER**

With Food, Drink, Music, and Dancing
A Tribute to *Show Boat*
9 p.m., Saturday, June 3, 1995
The Natchez Eola Hotel
Natchez, Mississippi

(This ticket may be redeemed for two beverages of your choice.)

Natchez Literary Celebration

579

ADMIT ONE - \$10

A COTTON PLANTATION RAMBLE

Saturday, June 3, 1995

4-6:30 p.m.: Taonee Plantation and Frogmore Plantation
Tours, Exhibits, and Refreshments
Concordia Parish, Louisiana

Natchez Literary Celebration

ADMIT ONE - \$15

"The Value of Ethnic, Economic,
and Religious Diversity in All Undertakings"
a presentation by

Dr. Maya Angelou

8 p.m., Friday, June 2, 1995 • Natchez Municipal Auditorium
207 Jefferson Street • Natchez, Mississippi
Doors open at 7 p.m. (No admittance after 8 p.m.)

NO 1456

Events exceed efforts of past

By KELLY BEASLEY
The Natchez Democrat

The Natchez Literary Celebration ended its most successful year Saturday night at the



Eola Hotel, with supporters taking part in the "Culinary Journey on the Mississippi River" and looking over "Show Boat" memorabilia.

Though the exact numbers aren't in, Carolyn Vance Smith, one of the co-chairmen of the celebration, said the conference drew more people and ran smoother than any previous year.

"Everything worked like clockwork because of our wonderful volunteers and the superb lecturers that attended," Smith said. "From the day they arrived to the time they left, we had no problems — none — and that's incredible."

The celebration drew some of the biggest crowds ever, especially to the Maya Angelou performance, which about 1,700 people attended, according to Smith.

Top-flight lecturers and authors helped make the afternoons full at the auditorium, too, drawing about 400 people per lecture, some more than that.

See EVENTS, Page 2A

Events

Continued from Page 1A

The student attendance was also up this year. Students from the advanced placement, American history and literature classes in the Natchez School System attended lectures Thursday and Friday.

"It was so exciting to see the kids there," Smith said. "They were really into what was going on. They behaved like young adults and when the speakers were performing, you could hear a pin drop."

The celebration has done so well in fact, that former head of the Natchez Chamber of Commerce, Morris Denton, now living in Columbus, attended with his wife and 20 others to study how the conference is put together. According to Denton, several citizen groups want to put on the same type of conference in Columbus.

"It's such an honor to know that others like the way we work and the way the conference is conducted," Smith said.

One of the reasons for the success is the diversity of programming that the conference offers, according to Smith.

"Natchez can bring in top-flight writers and others, and if we go out and tell people about it, they'll attend," she said. "We try to appeal to everyone, give something to everyone."

"There are a lot of different types of presentations, so we can pull in groups from any section of the community and that's important. That's what makes it a kind of cultural awakening for the community and a kaleidoscope of literature."

Based on the numbers so far, though not final, the appeal stretched to about 3,000 people and probably much more, according to Smith. At the Marine Band performance Saturday night, more than 800 attended and about 400 people crowded into the ballroom at the Eola for the celebration of "Show Boat."

Many of those attending the lectures wanted a lasting memory, namely the books on sale at the

Custom Bookstore. The books could be signed by the author and many stood in long lines waiting to get their copy.

Over the three-day period, \$9,000 worth of books were sold, \$2,000 of which were Angelou related. Every author represented at the bookstore sold, Smith said.

"This really shows you that the people who love books will come and attend and spend their money on what they love. It is amazing to me that in this short time, that much money could be spent on books," she said.

Even before the last guests left for home, Smith, Robert Dodson and Jim Barnett Jr., the three co-chairmen for the Literary Celebration, began planning for next year.

The conference will be held May 30 through June 1 and the theme will be "Women in Southern Literature." The three agencies, Copiah-Lincoln, The Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the National Park Service, will continue to sponsor the event.

"We want to make next year even better and that's why we need continued support from the community, financially also," Smith said.

"Supporters of the conference need to contact their congressmen and tell them not to cut funding to the humanities and arts. The National Endowment for Humanities gives us about \$24,000 to put this on. If they cut that, it would be devastating to this community."

Smith added that without gifts and grants, the cost to those attending would be much higher.

"All the free lectures we have been offering would have to be stopped," she said. "That's why it's important to keep that humanities support."

With that support, Smith said the celebration can continue to reach those that need it and want it the most.

"We try to educate and at the same time give people something they'll enjoy," she said. "This year and for the years to come, we'll continue to offer quality to those who love literature and the humanities."

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**THE NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION
PRESENTS**

Maya Angelou

President Clinton's inaugural poet and author of 11 bestsellers including *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings*



Friday, June 2, 1995

8:00 p.m.

(Doors open at 7:00 p.m.)

Natchez Municipal Auditorium • Natchez, Mississippi

Tickets \$15.00

Call Natchez Box Office 1-800-862-3259 or 601-445-0353

To order an autographed copy of Dr. Angelou's newest book of poetry, send a check for \$150 made out to Natchez Literary Celebration - P.O. Box 894 - Natchez, MS

39121

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Maya Angelou



John Allen Collier

marion & Carolyn Vance Smith





Carlisle & Emily
Henderson

Judy & Jim
Wiggins



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■ **Natchez, Miss.** 5-28-95
Luxuriate in the past in this Mississippi River city, founded by the French in 1716. It's home to the USA's largest collection of antebellum mansions, 15 of which are open daily for tours. June 1-3 is the **Literary Festival**; the theme, "King Cotton: Its Enduring Legacy," reflects Natchez's history as the center of the South's cotton empire, built on the backs of slaves. Guest speaker: Maya Angelou. Reservations are important. Information: 1-800-647-6724. — Hank Chase

■ **Natchez, Miss.**
This Mississippi River city is home to the USA's largest collection of antebellum mansions, 15 of which are open daily for tours. June 1-3 is the **Literary Festival**; the theme, "King Cotton: Its Enduring Legacy," reflects Natchez's history as the center of the South's cotton empire, built on the backs of slaves. Speaker: Maya Angelou. Reservations are important. Information: 1-800-647-6724. — Hank Chase

Opera, Literary tickets on sale

The Natchez Opera Festival season has officially opened, with the first performance of "The Student Prince" last night and another today at 3 p.m.

The remainder of the festival will consist of three more operas, the traditional plantation recitals, a concert series, an Award Winners Concert and a Command Performance.

Jane Calhoun at the Opera office said ticket sales were going better than last year.

"We're doing really well," she said. "We've sold a lot of tickets for the first performance.

"The Student Prince," and we're really excited about the rest of the sales also."

Tickets for the 1995 Natchez Opera Festival are now available. For tickets call the Natchez Opera at 442-SING or come by the office on the third floor of the Deposit

Guaranty National Bank, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Calhoun said the tickets for "The Student Prince" are selling fast so anyone interested should call now.

Tickets are also on sale for the June 2 performance of Maya Angelou during the 1995 Literary Celebration.

Tickets are \$15 and available at Natchez Box Office, 445-0353.

The show will begin at 8 p.m. in the City Auditorium.

Carolyn Vance Smith of the Natchez Literary Celebration, said tickets to this event should be gotten as soon as possible.

For a schedule of events call the Convention and Visitors Bureau, 446-6345.

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Literary celebration hits new height

Well, it appears books — and the celebration of them — are a hit in Natchez. The Natchez Literary Celebration wrapped up its sixth year Saturday evening with a tremendous head of steam into year seven, when women authors will be the theme of the three-day event.

Carolyn Vance Smith, co-chairman, and chief organizer, who has worked tirelessly to make the celebration a major literary event in the South, deserves a round of applause. She would be the first to admit, though, she isn't alone in making the celebration all it has become — so prestigious as to lure internationally known poet and lecturer Maya Angelou.

Each of the workshops were interesting, relevant and well-attended.

Educationally, the celebration also has gained in stature. Students attend in busloads.

Congratulations to the co-sponsors, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the National Park Service.

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5-28-95

The Sixth Annual

Natchez Literary Celebration

presents

King Cotton:

Its Enduring Literary Legacy

NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

MAY 31 - JUNE 3

All events take place at Natchez City Auditorium unless otherwise noted:

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

- All day workshop on Spanish Natchez archival material led by Dr. Douglas Inglis of Seville, Spain; River Park Hotel, with lunch; \$20

THURSDAY - SATURDAY JUNE 1-3

- 16 free lectures by nationally known writers and scholars, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

- Lunch with program by Natchez author Greg Iles, noon, Natchez Eola Hotel; \$12.50
- Free Mississippi ETV documentary on Natchez author Richard Wright, 7:30 p.m.
- Reception honoring famed author Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander and Mississippi ETV executive director Larry Miller, 9:30 p.m. \$5

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

- Lunch with program by Mississippi storyteller John Allen Collier, noon, Carriage House Restaurant, \$12.50
- Tour of Stratton Chapel Gallery, Bontura, Melrose, Longwood and NAPAC Museum, with refreshments and style show by the National Cotton Council, 4-7 p.m., \$15
- Presentation by author/educator Dr. Maya Angelou, 8 p.m.; \$15

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

- Free book signing by numerous lecturers, noon
- Free movie, Show Boat, 1:30 p.m.
- Tour of Frogmore Plantation and Tacony Plantation, Concordia Parish, La., with refreshments and exhibits, 4-6:30 p.m. \$10
- Free concert by the U.S. Marine Corps Band, 7:30 p.m., saluting Show Boat
- Reception, "A Culinary Journey on the Mississippi River," saluting Show Boat
- Reception, "A Culinary Journey on the Mississippi River," saluting Show Boat, with food, drink, live music, exhibits, and fun, Natchez Eola Hotel, \$20

For Tickets, call Natchez Box Office: (601)445-0353 or 1-800-862-3259

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Opera, Literary sales seem good

Tickets for the 1995 Natchez Opera Festival are now available. For tickets call the Natchez Opera at 442-SING or come by the office on the third floor of the Deposit Guaranty Bank, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The festival will consist of a presentation of four operas, the traditional plantation recitals, a concert series, an Award Winners Concert and a Command Performance.

Jane Calhoun at the Opera office said ticket sales were going better than last year.

"We're doing really well," she said. "We've sold a lot of tickets for the first performance, 'The Student Prince,' and we're really excited about the rest of the sales also."

Calhoun said the tickets for "The Student Prince" are selling fast so anyone interested should call now.

Tickets are also on sale for the June 2 performance of Maya Angelou during the 1995 Literary Celebration.

The cost is \$15 and available at Natchez Box Office, 445-0353. The show will begin at 8 p.m. in the City Auditorium.

Carolyn Vance Smith of the Natchez Literary Celebration, said tickets to this event should be gotten as soon as possible.

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Ticket sales impress organizers of Natchez festivals

By KELLY BEASLEY

The Natchez Democrat

Two of the biggest festivals in Natchez are around the corner for the 1995 Natchez Literary Celebration and the 1995 Natchez Opera Festival — and ticket sales are getting the organizers of both events excited.

Cathryn Vance Smith, a teacher at Gulf of Mississippi Community College in charge

of public relations and co-director of the Natchez Literary Celebration, said people were showing real interest in the activities of the festival and ticket sales were good.

"We're also doing something new this year for the advanced placement students at Natchez High School," Smith said. "Since they will still be in school, we've worked it out with the school so they can

come to the lectures on Thursday and Friday."

Also involved in the activities of the festival will be the jumpstart! Elderberry, a group, a program for older adults that travel from around the country to take a

"They are remarkable," Smith said. "They do it just because they have a thirst for knowledge."

"There will be more than 100 poets all over the United States. In addition to them, we have groups coming from all over the South and even in Oklahoma."

Monroe students and faculty from the who have been named most outstanding

The event will be covered by Mississippi

Educational Television

"We are so excited this year and the involvement from the students has been great," Smith said.

"All of the events this year are free except the appearance of Maya Angelo on Friday, June 2, which costs \$15. It will give most people the opportunity to participate."

See SA1A3, Page 2A

Sales

Continued from Page 1A

For more information, call the Convention and Visitors Bureau at 445-6343.

Across town in the opera office, the excitement is by no means diminishing.

"The ticket sales are going really well and we're excited about the progress," Jane Calhoun of the festival said.

Outselling any other performance so far has been "The Student Prince."

That may be because people don't want to plan too far ahead, according to Calhoun.

"The first show always sells the most tickets and that's the case here," said Frank Bauer, one of the organizers of the festival.

"I think the interesting thing is that our out-of-town sales have dramatically increased over last year. Places like New Orleans, Memphis, Houston and Jackson have bought more tickets so far than they did for the entire festival last year," he added.

The ticket office is seeing an increase in sales in other areas such as Alexandria, La., Baton Rouge La., and Port Gibson.

"I think because of the coverage we're getting in newspapers, radio and television all over the South people are hearing about it and wanting to find out what it's all about," Bauer said.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the opera office at 433-8190 or visit the third floor of the Deposit Guaranty National Bank from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visa and Mastercard accepted.

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The Natchez Bicentennial Award

WRIGHT AWARDED: Former Gov. William Winter, master of ceremonies for the 1995 Natchez Literary Celebration, hugs Natchez Wright Literary Excellence Award Thursday night at the Natchez City Auditorium. Awarded, an author since the 1830s and professor of English emeritus at Jackson State University, was the second recipient of the award.

Turnout pleases festival organizer

By MIKE WILLEY
The Natchez Democrat

The Natchez Literary Celebration coming into its second day Friday, building on the successes of opening day, "Enslavement is in the air," said Carolan Water Smith, principal organizer of Co-Ed Community College's six literary festivals. "I'm particularly pleased with the turnout of high school students who have come to the lectures. Everything is going beautifully."

With many of ceremonies, former Gov. William Winter helping to introduce each participant, a crowd of about 200 listened to six lectures by noted writers.

Harriet Beecher Stowe discussed Charles G. Dabigren of Natchez, who came to Natchez from Philadelphia in 1837 and who supervised the design and construction of Danville, one of the

state's premier mansions. A banker, planter and Confederate brigadier general, as well as builder, Dabigren, like so many others, had problems due to the Civil War. "By the end of the century, the premiere had faded for the Dabigren family," said Kinsey.

Visiting Mississippi for the first time in his life, Charles R. Blockson delivered a lecture on fugitive slaves and the "underground railroad" which helped them to freedom. Blockson, who has donated one of the nation's largest private collections of items relating to black history and traditions, told the audience gathered at the City Auditorium, "The underground railroad was a human chain—the last great migration of African Americans in this country."

Blockson told special attendees about people who were
See TURNOUT, Page 1A

Turnout

Continued from Page 1A

involved with fugitive slaves. One, a Captain John Walker, was captured while helping slaves to escape and was himself branded on the hands with the letters "S," standing for "slave stealer." After Walker returned to the north, Blockson said the letters came to stand for "slave service."

After a lecture by Ronald Davis about John R. Lynch, born a slave

in Natchez but who grew to become one of the most powerful political leaders of his time, the Natchez Literary Celebration adjourned to the Carriage House Restaurant for lunch, where John Allen Collier commenced about his life growing up on a plantation in the delta.

Afternoon activities at the City Auditorium featured a lecture by Jeanette Harlow on the original mistress of Longwood, Julia Nott. Gov. Warren called Harlow's presentation, "a dramatic picture of a tragic and heartrending situation."

The final lecture on Friday's program was an examination of a home movie, made by Emma Knowlton Lytle of Clanton, titled "Raisin' Cotton in the Mississippi Delta: A Day in the Life of Perfection Plantation."

Introduced by Austin President Rodolph Waters, Lytle and Tom Rankin, associate professor of art and Southern studies at the University of Mississippi, showed the film which depicts the entire cycle of cotton planting, growing and harvesting in 1940.

Ziegfeld, 'Show Boat' linked forever

By JOHN GARDNER
Special to The Democrat

History has linked forever the names "Show Boat" and Ziegfeld. At the 1995 Natchez Literary Celebration, these two names will share the spotlight again.

Thomas Ziegfeld took John G. Parker's epic novel to the Broadway musical stage in 1927. Now a relative, Richard Ziegfeld, has revived the "Show Boat" connection in numerous works drawing from the world famous musical which opened almost 70 years

ago at Natchez City Auditorium will introduce a free showing of the 1936 movie version of "Show Boat." Later, at 7:30 p.m., he will present an illustrated lecture, "Show Boat." The title of an "Special," which will be followed by a concert of "Show Boat" and patriotic music by the U.S. Marine Corps Band of New Orleans. The lecture and concert also are free and open to the public.

An author and a composer collaborated on "Show Boat." Ziegfeld describes his relative's

having transformed musical theater into the form known today.

"The press immediately declared it 'the best music of show ever written,'" Ziegfeld said. "Critic Brooks Atkinson dubbed it 'one of those special works about which gardeners did not publicize for 25 years after the scenery had rotted off to the minnows.'"

The musical was written by Oscar Hammerstein II with lyrics by Jerome Kern. "Show Boat" is the haunting story of romance, love, tragedy by initiation, and in emotional themes about suffering

music, tension," Ziegfeld said. "The most of all the soaring intensity that captures the spirit of the era gives 'Show Boat' its timeless appeal."

The 1936 film was different from other versions to show celebration participants because it is "the studio best," Ziegfeld said.

As compared to the 1928 version, for example, the earlier one is a "more perfect synthesis of the story, with better acting, better vocal ability among the stars, it is more accurate historically and also it used some costumed costumes from the Broadway production."

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Tourism meeting to help increase sales

The Natchez-Adams County Chamber of Commerce, the Natchez-Adams County Economic Development Authority and the Natchez Convention and Visitors Bureau cordially invite all interested businesses to attend "The Tourism Industry: Opportunities to Increase Your Local Sales in 1995."

This event is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 19, at the Natchez Eola Hotel. Beginning with a dutch treat breakfast at 7:30 a.m., the presentations will start at 8 a.m.

Roger Saterstrom of Natchez Pilgrimage Tours will discuss sea-

sonal and year-round tourism patterns. Connie Taunton and Melinda Fitzgerald with the Natchez Convention and Visitors Bureau will talk about the spending habits of Natchez tourists and free advertising available to local businesses. Carolyn Vance Smith with the Elderhostel program will discuss sales potential with year-round touring groups and the Literary Celebration.

This is an opportunity for local businesses to discover new and innovative ways to increase sales in 1995, particularly during high tourist seasons. Limited seating is available so RSVP as soon as possible to Christy at 445-4611.

Volunteers again help the cause 6-5-95

The Natchez Literary Celebration was another big hit. From the opening to the closing, those who attended were educated and entertained.

As many visitors to Natchez, those attending the celebration should have left happy and enlightened.

One of the reasons the three-day event was so successful was because of all the volunteers who help out behind the scenes; the "worker bees" who take on whatever they're asked to do.

A report Sunday told about such volunteers who are among the first to raise their hands when workers are needed.

We have read about the co-directors, including Carolyn Vance Smith, who has worked tirelessly for the past six years to keep the celebration vital and informative.

But without the volunteers, such a massive project would be difficult to pull off.

Thanks to all of you who worked behind the scenes.

THE NATCHEZ DEMOCRAT,

Thursday, March 23, 1995

■ **JUNE** will kick off another Natchez Literary Celebration. Sponsored by **Copiah-Lincoln Community College**, the Natchez National Historical Park and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the celebration is June 1-3, and the theme is "King Cotton: Its Literary Legacy."

Information about tickets is available at Natchez Box Office, 1-800-862-3259, or locally, 445-0353. Address correspondence to Natchez Literary Celebration, P.O. Box 894, Natchez, Miss. 39121-0894.

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Thursday, April 27, 1995

Alexander tapped for literary award

Special to The Democrat

Mississippi writer and educator Margaret Walker Alexander, author of "Jubilee" and numerous other works, will receive the second annual Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award during a June 1 ceremony in Natchez.



Alexander

Former University of Mississippi history professor David Sansing will present the award as a highlight of the Natchez Literary Celebration.

Alexander has lived and

worked in Mississippi since 1949, when she moved to Jackson to join the faculty at Jackson State University. Her novel "Jubilee" is the most widely published of her works, but she also is noted for her poetry, such as "For My People," and for her works on the life of Wright, the writer after whom this latest award is named.

"The committee of distinguished Mississippians who chose Alexander for this award was unanimous in its choice," Sansing said. "She is one of the outstanding writers of this century, and it will be a great honor for me to present to her this, her latest honor in a long list of achieve-

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Award

Continued from Page 1A

ments."

A native of Birmingham, Ala., where she was born July 27, 1915, Alexander taught English for many years at Jackson State. Now professor emeritus, she continues to be an active participant at the Institute for the Study of the History, Life and Culture of Black People, which she established in 1968.

Alferdeen Harrison, a history professor who has worked at the institute with Alexander since 1979, said students and faculty at Jackson State have enjoyed many stimulating experiences as a result of the esteemed writer's association with the school.

"She has brought many literary scholars to the campus whose

works we otherwise might never have known," Harrison said. "The literary award is a singular honor for her and I know of no more deserving person. She really speaks for the souls of African Americans better than any other Mississippian."

Festivities leading up to the award include the premiere of a Mississippi Educational Television documentary, "Richard Wright - Black Boy," a free presentation which will follow remarks by Jerry W. Ward of Tougaloo College on the making of the film.

"The entire evening will be a gala event," said Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman of the Literary Celebration and an English instructor at Copiah-Lincoln Community College's Natchez campus. "We are thrilled at the choice of Alexander, and

how appropriate that she receive the award on an evening when we also are honoring writer Richard Wright, the subject of one of her most important books."

Eudora Welty was the winner of the 1994 literary award.

Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the National Park Service, the 1995 Literary Celebration will follow the theme, "King Cotton: Its Enduring Literary Legacy." Most events — including lectures, exhibits, musical events and movies — are free and open to the public at City Auditorium.

Information on all events is available at Natchez Box Office, 1-800-862-3259 or 601-445-0353, or at Natchez Convention & Visitor Bureau, 1-800-647-6724 or 601-446-6345.

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Freed slave helped form 'aristocracy'

By MIKE WILLEY

The Natchez Democrat

Introduced by Duncan Morgan as "the guiding force behind the salvation of our courthouse records," Ronald L.F. Davis delivered a spellbinding lecture to participants at Friday's Natchez Literary Celebration.

A professor of history at California State University at Northridge, Davis detailed the life of



Davis

John R. Lynch, who rose from life as a slave born in Concordia Parish to controlled vast amounts of political patronage in post-Civil War Mississippi.

Although Lynch died in the 1910s in Chicago, his greatest impact was on Mississippians. "From 1875 to 1895, in many ways he controlled patronage offered by the Republican Party in Mississippi," said Davis.

The first black member of the U.S. Congress from Mississippi, Lynch was able to name black people to hundreds of jobs during the reconstruction period.

Davis, however, said he has

"problems" with aspects of Lynch's personality. "What explains his rise to power?" said Davis, who has researched Natchez Courthouse records for clues to Lynch's success.

Davis's study indicated that Lynch was "very conscious of his mixed race color" and used his light skin to fit in with the free black community in Natchez. Davis said that Lynch identified more with the people of mixed race and "classified patronage to mixed race people."

Lynch's social inclinations had financial ramifications as well, according to Davis. "Of 100 Lynch

transactions in the 1880s, almost all were with the free blacks of Natchez," said Davis, contrasting five blacks with the great mass of "freedmen" who had been released from slavery.

Davis described Lynch as "an idealist and an opportunist," a man who argued consistently against the disenfranchisement of black people that occurred after 1867, but who at the same time was open to charges that he "created an aristocracy" which separated blacks in the state of Mississippi.

"How could it have been different?" said Davis. "The great experiment failed."

Author ready for novel set in Mississippi

By M. SCOTT MORRIS

The Natchez Democrat

Mississippi is the place for Greg Iles, though the author's characters

have yet to find themselves in the Magnolia state.

Iles' two published books, "Spandex Phoenix" and "Black

Cross," have been set in such places Europe and Africa, seemingly far away from Natchez.

"I believe the time has come for me to begin writing about the place I know best: Mississippi," said Iles, who spoke on "The Influence of Place on My Fiction" during a luncheon Thursday at the Natchez Eola Hotel. The luncheon was part of the sixth annual Natchez Literary Celebration.

Iles admits the idea of writing about his home state was daunting early in his career. After all, the state has received standout attention from the likes of William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Richard Wright and others.

"I had to grow in ability and develop enough to handle it," Iles said. "I think I'm still realizing that."

Even though his novels were not set in Natchez, the city certainly influenced the works, Iles said. Growing up in Natchez shaped his world view, but Iles finds common links between people from seem-

ingly different worlds.

"It seems that young Germans feel very much the same as young white Southerners," he said. Bush groups have been taught histories filled with pronounced civil rights abuses and must come to grips with pain they had no hand in shaping, Iles said.

Growing up in Natchez during desegregation left a lasting impression on Iles, who plans to someday use both the beauty and blight of Natchez as a backdrop.

"Suffice it to say that Natchez is my postage stamp and I know it like the back of my hand and it is worth writing about," he said.



The Natchez Democrat's Barry Good

NATCHEZ AUTHOR: Greg Iles, right, greets well-wishers following his speech on "The Influence of Place on My Fiction," at the Natchez Eola Hotel Thursday as part of the sixth annual Natchez Literary Celebration.

6-3-95
For Today's Celebration



The Natchez Literary Celebration includes mostly free events. All events are located at the City Auditorium unless otherwise stated. The lecture and events schedule is as follows.

Saturday, June 3

■ 9 a.m. Berry Morgan of George Washington University in Washington, D.C., will present "The Land is the Link Between the Soul and the Mind."



Morgan

■ 9:45 a.m. State Sen. John Horne of Jackson will present "The Impact of the Plantation on the Writings of William Faulkner, Richard Wright and Ernest Gaines."



Horne

■ 10:45 a.m. Bettann Wyatt-Brown of the University of Florida in Gainesville will present "The Literary Percy: Male and Female Voices."



Wyatt-Brown



Ziegfeld

■ 1:30 p.m. Richard Ziegfeld of Cleveland, Ohio, will present "The Absolute Best: The 1936 Film Version of 'Show Boat.'"

■ 1:45 p.m. Showing of the 1936 movie "Show Boat."

■ 7:30 p.m. Ziegfeld will present an illustrated commentary, "Show Boat: The Making of an Epoch."

■ 8:15 p.m. The U.S. Marine Corps Band will present a concert featuring music from "Show Boat" and other selections.

■ 9 p.m. "A Culinary Journey on the Mississippi River," Natchez Eola Hotel (\$20 ticket)

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Events exceed efforts of past

By KELLY BEASLEY
The Natchez Democrat

The Natchez Literary Celebration ended its most successful year Saturday night at the Eola Hotel, with supporters taking part in the "Culinary Journey on the Mississippi River" and looking over "Show Boat" memorabilia.

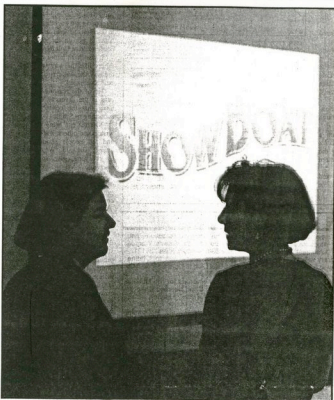
Though the exact numbers aren't in, Carolyn Vance Smith, one of the co-chairmen of the celebration, said the conference drew more people and ran smoother than any previous year.

"Everything worked like clockwork because of our wonderful volunteers and the superb lecturers that attended," Smith said. "From the day they arrived to the time they left, we had no problems — none — and that's incredible."

The celebration drew some of the biggest crowds ever, especially to the Maya Angelou performance, which about 1,700 people attended, according to Smith.

Top-flight lecturers and authors helped make the afternoons full at the auditorium, too, drawing about 400 people per lecture, some more than that.

See EVENTS, Page 2A



The Natchez Democrat/Kevin Cooper

SHOWBOAT MEMORIES: Liza Sharp, owner of Liza's Contemporary Cuisine, and Stephanie Anderson are silhouetted as they watch a slide show from the Broadway premiere of "Show Boat" Saturday night at the finale of the Natchez Literary Celebration at the Eola Hotel. About 400 people attended the "Culinary Journey on the Mississippi River."

Events

Continued from Page 1A

The student attendance was also up this year. Students from the advanced placement, American history and literature classes in the Natchez School System attended lectures Thursday and Friday.

"It was so exciting to see the kids there," Smith said. "They were really into what was going on. They behaved like young adults and when the speakers were performing, you could hear a pin drop."

The celebration has done so well in fact, that former head of the Natchez Chamber of Commerce, Morris Denton, now living in Columbus, attended with his wife and 20 others to study how the conference is put together. According to Denton, several citizen groups want to put on the same type of conference in Columbus.

"It's such an honor to know that others like the way we work and the way the conference is conducted," Smith said.

One of the reasons for the success is the diversity of programming that the conference offers, according to Smith.

"Natchez can bring in top-flight writers and others, and if we go out and tell people about it, they'll attend," she said. "We try to appeal to everyone, give something to everyone."

"There are a lot of different types of presentations, so we can pull in groups from any section of the community and that's important. That's what makes it a kind of cultural awakening for the community and a kaleidoscope of literature."

Based on the numbers so far, though not final, the appeal stretched to about 3,000 people and probably much more, according to Smith. At the Marine Band performance Saturday night, more than 800 attended and about 400 people crowded into the ballroom at the Eola for the celebration of "Show Boat."

Many of those attending the lectures wanted a lasting memory, namely the books on sale at the

Custom Bookstore. The books could be signed by the author and many stood in long lines waiting to get their copy.

Over the three-day period, \$9,000 worth of books were sold, \$2,000 of which were Angelou related. Every author represented at the bookstore sold, Smith said.

"This really shows you that the people who love books will come and attend and spend their money on what they love. It is amazing to me that in this short time, that much money could be spent on books," she said.

Even before the last guests left for home, Smith, Robert Dodson and Jim Barnett Jr., the three co-chairmen for the Literary Celebration, began planning for next year.

The conference will be held May 30 through June 1 and the theme will be "Women in Southern Literature." The three agencies, Copiah-Lincoln, The Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the National Park Service, will continue to sponsor the event.

"We want to make next year even better and that's why we need continued support from the community, financially also," Smith said.

"Supporters of the conference need to contact their congressmen and tell them not to cut funding to the humanities and arts. The National Endowment for Humanities gives us about \$24,000 to put this on. If they cut that, it would be devastating to this community."

Smith added that without gifts and grants, the cost to those attending would be much higher.

"All the free lectures we have been offering would have to be stopped," she said. "That's why it's important to keep that humanities support."

With that support, Smith said the celebration can continue to reach those that need it and want it the most.

"We try to educate and at the same time give people something they'll enjoy," she said. "This year and for the years to come, we'll continue to offer quality to those who love literature and the humanities."

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Volunteers give for love of arts

By KELLY BEASLEY
The Natchez Democrat

They usher ticket-holders. They hand out programs. They open their home to guest lecturers and performers.

Basically, they do just about anything and everything for a cause they love — the arts.

Frank Bauer and John Davis have been doing this kind of work for the Opera Festival and the Literary Celebration in particular for five years now. Whether in the front lines, or behind the scenes, these two are committed to seeing the arts in Natchez grow.

They open their home, Highpoint Bed and Breakfast, to performers who come into town,

both for the Opera Festival and the Literary Celebration, free of charge. It's something they say is just a small way to help out.

"We both love history and the arts," Bauer said. "Volunteering is just our small way of making sure the arts in Natchez continue to grow."

In a small town like Natchez, with any production, it is the help of volunteers that ensures the show can go on, according to Davis.

"My mother used to say that many hands make light work, and that's what goes on here with the festivals and now with the Literary Celebration," Davis said. "Volunteers really make these things work and every little bit



The Natchez Democrat/Kelly Beasley

DEDICATED TO THE ARTS: Frank Bauer keeps the book shelves well stocked at the Natchez Literary Celebration. Bauer has supported the Celebration and the Natchez Opera Festival.

helps. "It's really a pleasure for us to be a part of these wonderful programs, and that's why we get involved."

See ARTS, Page 7A



The Natchez Democrat/Kelly Beasley

HELPING OUT: Long-time Natchez Literary Celebration volunteer John Davis hands out programs during this year's events. Both the Celebration and the Natchez Opera Festival have benefited from Davis' dedication to the arts.

Arts

Continued from Page 1A

With the long hours required and the hard work that goes into setting up the City Auditorium for any kind of program, volunteers certainly don't do it for the recognition or the glory — usually there is none.

"Working all day hanging black paper on the windows so people can see the slide shows is not something you do for the glory of

it," Bauer said. "We do it because it is rewarding to know we were a part of the Celebration. We did something to help make sure it was a quality conference."

For Davis and Bauer, volunteering has always been a part of life. Davis volunteered to do bookkeeping for his company's credit union which resulted in a managerial position for 30 years.

Bauer was deeply involved in the Houston Grand Opera for several years, volunteering for several productions and serving on the board of directors.

It is their love for the arts, though, that keeps them involved, according to Davis.

"There is an enjoyment we get in just simply being involved — doing more than just attending the programs, but helping make them happen, doing the behind the scenes projects," Davis said.

Bauer agreed. "It's really a labor of love for us," he said.

"Whether we're setting up chairs or handing out programs, we're a part of something we love, and that makes all the work we put in worth it."

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Literary celebration earns honor of Olympic proportions

By JOAN GANDY

Special to The Democrat

The Natchez Literary Celebration has won a regional designation for excellence in the humanities awarded by the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games.

The annual Celebration, now in its sixth year, is one of 21 winners selected by the Cultural Olympiad for excellence and innovation in humanities programs throughout the southeastern United States.

"We are overwhelmed by this honor and the prestigious award," said Carolyn Vance

Smith, founder and co-chairman of the Celebration and an English instructor at Natchez. "What an honor to be selected from all the outstanding cultural events which take place in the South."

Smith received the award from Jeffrey N. Blasiak, director of the National Committee for the Cultural Olympiad, during ceremonies held in Atlanta.

"It is with a great deal of joy this Mississippi has this international recognition and in particular Natchez," Smith said. "The whole community has pulled together

on something that is world class.

"As an educator, it is very gratifying to see that people and literature and go away with a lot of knowledge."

One of the selection committee members, Troy Holliday, of Ripley, a member of the Mississippi Humanities Council, said the competition "was very keen and this is a great compliment to Natchez."

Nearly seven events vied for the honor. Holliday said, "The literary celebration went to the top of the list."

The Natchez Literary Celebration was established to raise the local, state and

world consciousness of the wealth of history, literature and culture associated with the South during the past two centuries.

Smith said.

"We have tried to stimulate critical thought about the connection of the South to certain outstanding individuals, events, essays, history, biography, fiction, poetry, drama, architecture and food," she said.

"The celebration brings together scholars from throughout the United States and from abroad to participate each year. Sponsors of the event are Capital-Landmark, the National Park Service and the

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. No program of its kind existed in the region prior to the founding of the celebration in 1990, Smith said.

Themes have included influence on southern literature, history and culture by the Mississippi River; the Spanish period in Natchez and the King Cotton era. The 1994 Celebration theme is "Southern Women: 300 Years of Influence."

"As a place where Native American, French, English, Spanish and Colonial American role progression during a 300-year period, Natchez is a special place to see AWARDS, Page 2A

Award

Continued from Page 1A

base for exploring southern culture," Smith said. "The 1996 conference also will focus on the closing of one century and the beginning of another with an emphasis on the role of women in carrying forward ideals and ideas into a world which, with its technological potential, requires humanity's reflection more than ever."

Smith said the Cultural Olympiad award is a salute to the entire community of Natchez.

"From the beginning, the Natchez Literary Celebration has been embraced by the community, with more than 300 people volunteering each year to assist in the undertaking."

The three-day event provides educational opportunities which many people in the community otherwise never might have, she said, adding that thousands have attended the lectures and programs. "And the Literary Celebration brings together people of all races and backgrounds to consider the rich heritage they share in a very diverse part of the state, the South and the world."

The other recipient from Mississippi was the William Faulkner Conference at the University of Miss.

Award

Continued from Page 1A

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Natchez

LITERARY CELEBRATION

Presentations, attendance please event organizers

By MIKE WILLEY

The Natchez Democrat

As the Natchez Literary Celebration plunged into its third and last day of business at the City Auditorium, organizers of the event said they were happy with attendance and the quality of the presentations. Bob Dodson, superintendent of the Natchez National Historical Park and, with Carolyn Vance Smith and Jim Burnett Jr., one of three co-chairmen for the event, said, "It's awfully pleasing to look out there at all those filled chairs. There are more people in the auditorium than last year."

Dodson also noticed a difference in the locations. "Speakers in the past tended to come in, deliver their lectures, and leave. Now we're seeing speakers come in the first day and not leave until Sunday. It's indicative that they're enjoying it."

Opening Saturday's lecture series was Berry Morgan, a creative writing teacher who has published in "The New Yorker" and elsewhere. Morgan focused on the Agrarian movement as an alternative to an alternative view of the South.

"I am primarily a farmer, not a writer," said Morgan. "Land is so important. It has a mystique and an importance."

The most feared people Morgan pointed to in the world today are the little anonymous people who can live off the land and avoid materialism. They're in retreat of trade.

The Honorable John A. Harbo, state senator from Madison and Hindu country, addressed the crowd of about 150 partici-

pants on "The Impact of the Plantation on the Writings of William Faulkner, Richard Wright and Ernest Gaines." Drawing from

"The Sound and the Fury," "Black Boy," and "A Lesson Before Dying," Harbo said, "One of the special gifts of southern writers is how they are able to describe the way their land has impacted people's lives."

Bertam Wyatt-Brown, professor of literature at the University of Florida, lectured on "The Literary Perceys." Brown showed how six writers, four women of the 19th century and two men from the 20th century, have produced a remarkable literary achievement although burdened by family

insecurity and inherited depression.

Wyatt-Brown, who worked "with a whole slew of Percy materials here," credited Alma Caperton, a woman who owns The Elms, with help in researching one of the 19th century Percys, Sarah Denney, a woman shocked by her time. "Reflecting on my research," Wyatt-Brown said, "The houses of Natchez are old, but their spirit is young."

After lunch, activities at the City Auditorium shifted away from lectures. Richard Ziegfeld, a relative of Florence Ziegfeld, the Broadway impresario who first produced "Show Boat," introduced the 1936 film version of the classic American musical.

The live presentation of the film "Show Boat" was a preliminary to Ziegfeld's discussion Saturday night of the complexities underlying the making of "Show Boat." Ziegfeld focused on the tension between Edna Ferber, the author of the novel on which the Broadway play was based, and the male-dominated world of theater artists.

Ziegfeld, the author of "The Ziegfeld Touch: The Life and Times of Florence Ziegfeld," feels that "Show Boat" transformed musical theater into the form we know today.

The final live act of the Natchez Literary Celebration was a concert featuring "Show Boat" songs by the Fourth Marine Aircraft Wing Band, United States Marine Corps, held at the City Auditorium. The concert band is directed by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Purcell, from Brookhaven.

CTO 18

South engrosses author Ziegfeld

By MIKE WILLEY

The Natchez Democrat

Richard Ziegfeld first visited Natchez 20 years ago as a college student. "I was engrossed by the romanticism of the South, the way in which the South was the guardian of an era," Ziegfeld said.

A relative of Florence Ziegfeld, the Broadway impresario responsible for the original production of "Show Boat," Ziegfeld visited Jackson and Oxford, as well as Natchez on that memorable trip. "I particularly remember the magic of the night, standing up over the river," he said. "It was one of those magical experiences which gave me an interest in Southern literature."

Ziegfeld ended up taking his Ph.D. in comparative literature from the University of Texas, and his dissertation, in part, was based on William Faulkner. Florence Ziegfeld, however, never made it to the scene of "Show Boat" according to Richard Ziegfeld. "She shows normally didn't go south of Dayton and Cincinnati, Ohio," said Ziegfeld, citing difficulties with the Ziegfeld shows' use of black cast members.

Now did Edna Ferber, the author

of the novel on which the Ziegfeld musical was based, ever visit Natchez, according to Ziegfeld. "She did extensive research," he said.

On Saturday, Richard Ziegfeld brought "Show Boat" to Natchez. First he introduced a live showing of the 1936 film version of "Show Boat" to participants of the Natchez Literary Celebration. Ziegfeld said the 1936 version is the "absolute best" of several versions.

Then, Ziegfeld offered the first lecture of the literary celebration. "Show Boat" is the most influential Broadway musical of all time," said Ziegfeld, who also attended the revival of "Show Boat" in New York last October. "Show Boat" transformed musical theater, according to Ziegfeld, who cited its story of romance, miscegenation, intrigue, alcoholism and discretion as ingredients for breaking some formerly held taboos.

Ziegfeld has noticed some changes in the South since he last visited here 20 years ago. "I've noticed that black political figures are in much greater evidence. I want to be cautious, but it appears to me that there's been progress in many areas," Ziegfeld said.



CONNECTION: Richard Ziegfeld, a relative of Florence Ziegfeld, who produced the original version of "Show Boat" on Broadway, has been engrossed by the South since his first visit to Natchez 20 years ago.

The Natchez Democrat/Staff Photo

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Strike up ⁵⁻³¹⁻⁹⁵ the band

U.S. Marine Band to perform Saturday at City Auditorium

By JOAN GANDY

The Natchez Democrat

Stirring strains of "Ol' Man River" will resound near the great Father of Waters celebrated in the song when the U.S. Fourth Marine Aircraft Wing Band performs in a free Natchez concert on Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

At City Auditorium, only two blocks from the high bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, the band will play "Show Boat" music and traditional patriotic tunes as part of the sixth annual **Natchez Literary Celebration**.

"Much of Saturday will focus on 'Show Boat,'" said Celebration co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith.

"The music by this outstanding band will make the evening very special and festive."

In addition to familiar tunes such as "Ol' Man River" and others from "Show Boat," the band will play John Philip Sousa's "King Cotton" march, a salute to the Literary Celebration's theme.

"King Cotton: Its Enduring Literary Legacy."

The band, with headquarters in New Orleans, is made up of one officer and 50 enlisted men, all musicians who often are called upon to perform.

"Musicians in this band have performed many concerts, contemporary to classic, at more than 225 functions each year," said Chief Warrant Officer Robert Farmer, the band's director.

"We cover about 100,000 miles for concerts every year."

Farmer, a native of Brookhaven, promises "the very best in military music" when the group performs in Natchez.

"Audiences have come to expect such favorites as 'Bugler's Holiday,' 'America the Beautiful' and, of course, 'Marines' Hymn,'" he said.

Farmer is a graduate of Delta State University in Cleveland and holds an M.A. in music composition from George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. He has been



NATCHEZ

The Natchez Democrat photo courtesy of Dr. Thomas H. Gandy

ABOARD THE NATCHEZ: The United States Fourth Marine Aircraft Wing Band poses on the Mississippi River aboard The Natchez in New Orleans. The Fourth Marine Band will be in concert Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the City Auditorium.

director of the New Orleans-based Marine band since September 1993.

The band is comprised of a ceremonial and concert band, dance band, rock band, combo, brass quintet, jazz trio and Dixieland band.

Performance locations have included such events as the Texas State Fair, Coca-Cola 600 Race, Indianapolis 500 Race, Boston Marathon and Mardi Gras celebrations.

"Marine Corps musical units have been an integral part of

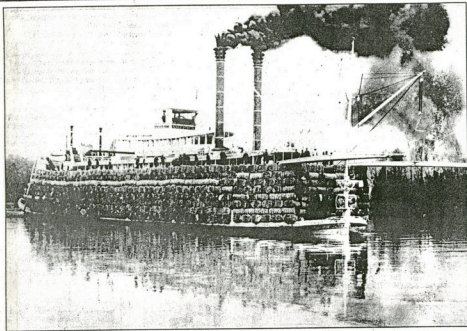
America's history since the earliest days of the Revolutionary War," Farmer said. "The first Marine musicians were enlisted as drummers and fiddlers in the First and Second Battalions of the Continental Marines in 1773."

In 1798, he said, Congress

established the United States Marine Band, the oldest organization of its kind in the United States.

"Since that time, Marine musical units have grown and set the tempo for new and exciting developments in music."

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The Natchez Democrat/Photo courtesy of Dr. Thomas H. Gandy

6-2-95
THE AMERICA: No rival of the soon-to-be-launched and very fancy American Queen, the 19th Century steamboat, America, demonstrates one of its strong points — carrying many bales of cotton. Built in 1889 for Capt. L.V. Cooley of New Orleans, the America retired from the river at New Orleans in 1926. When Cooley died and was buried in New Orleans in 1931, the bell from the America was hung over his grave. "King Cotton: Its Enduring Literary Legacy" is the theme of this year's Natchez Literary Celebration which began Thursday and continues through Saturday.

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Literary celebration earns honor of Olympic proportions

By JOAN GANDY

Special to The Democrat

The Natchez Literary Celebration has won a regional designation for excellence in the humanities awarded by the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games.

The annual Celebration, now in its sixth year, is one of 24 winners selected by the Cultural Olympiad for excellence and innovation in humanities programs throughout the southeastern United States.

"We are overwhelmed by this truly prestigious award," said Carolyn Vance

Smith, founder and co-chairman of the Celebration and an English instructor at Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

Natchez, "What an honor to be selected from all the outstanding cultural events which take place in the South."

Smith received the award from Jeffrey N. Babcock, director of Cultural Olympiad of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, during ceremonies Monday in Atlanta.

"It is with a great deal of joy that Mississippi has this international attention and in particular Natchez," Smith said. "The whole community has pulled together

something that is world class.

"As an educator, it is very gratifying to me that people will come together for the study of books and literature and go away excited," said Smith, a Co-Lin teacher.

One of the selection committee members, Trey Holliday, of Ripley, a member of the Mississippi Humanities Council, said the competition "was very keen and this is a great compliment to Natchez." Ninety-seven events tied for the honor.

Holliday said, "The literary celebration went to the top of the list."

The Natchez Literary Celebration was established to raise the local, state and

world consciousness of the wealth of history, literature and culture associated with the South during the past two centuries, Smith said.

"We have tried to stimulate critical thought about the connection of the South to certain outstanding individuals, events, essays, history, biography, fiction, poetry, oral literature, music, film, photography, drama, architecture and food," she said.

"The celebration brings together scholars from throughout the United States and from abroad to participate each year."

Sponsors of the event are Copiah-Lincoln, the National Park Service and the

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. No program of its kind existed in the region prior to the founding of the celebration in 1990, Smith said.

Themes have included influence on southern literature, history and culture by the Mississippi River, the Spanish period in Natchez and the King Cotton era. The 1996 Celebration theme is "Southern Women: 300 Years of Influence."

"As a place where Native American, French, English, Spanish and Colonial American rule progressed during a 300-period, Natchez has provided an excellent

See AWARD, Page 2A

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Thursday, November 22, 1995

Supervisors have exciting invitation

Our county leaders have a chance to help in the creation of a necessary and important higher education campus on Beltline Highway.

The magnitude of the situation was made evident Monday, when the presidents of Alcorn State University and Copiah-Lincoln attended the Adams County Board of Supervisors' meeting. ASU President Clinton Britton and Co-Lin President Billy Thames are seeking the county's help with the development of a fine arts and auditorium building. The facility would be built for Co-Lin, but shared by Alcorn's campus on Beltline.

Go-Lin is seeking to invest \$1.5 million in the project.

"We urge the supervisors to try to find a way to respond to ASU's and Co-Lin's request, if there is a financial way possible.

The supervisors, in the past, have been very helpful. They approved a county-financed road into Beltline Highway, which greatly assisted in the development of the ASU School of Nursing and the creation of a new Co-Lin campus. In addition to its classroom and administration building, Co-Lin plans to move into a new \$4.6 million education and administration building in January.

Also, ASU plans to build a 128-room dormitory to be shared by Co-Lin.

So, there is no shortage of investment by the two institutions in the future of the Natchez area.

A fine arts center would greatly enhance the schools' programs and provide cultural enrichment for our area, complementing the programs — such as the Natchez Opera Festival and the Natchez Literary Celebration — that are already highly successful.

Britton and Thames brought an exciting invitation to the supervisors.

We hope they RSVP with their support.

Professor unveils discoveries

By KELLY BEASLEY
The Natchez Democrat

6-1-95

With new records available, residents and historians of Natchez should be able to get a good idea of what the area and people were like under Spanish rule, according to G. Douglas Inglis, professor of history at the University of Seville in Spain and researcher of the colonial days of Natchez when it was under Spanish rule.

In a workshop conducted Wednesday at the Best Western River Park Hotel, Inglis provided details of new discoveries available on database regarding genealogy and research from Spanish Natchez records.

The workshop served as preamble to the sixth annual Natchez Literary Celebration, which is titled, "King Cotton: It's Enduring Literary Legacy." The celebration begins today.

The Colonial Natchez Database Project is moving closer to completion and Inglis has begun organizing and indexing materials by computer for use by researchers at the Judge George W. Armstrong Library.

"The Spanish records are the best recording of what went on here that we can find," Inglis said. "When the area was under British rule, they didn't keep a lot of official documentation, only diaries and casual correspondence.

"The Spanish, however, documented everything.



Inglis

We only have about 800 to 1,000 folios from the British rule, but we have close to 15,000 folios for the Spanish Natchez period."

Researching these stacks in Seville, Inglis has found carefully documented information on who lived in the area, what they did, what religion they were and if they were granted land.

Under Spanish rule, censuses were conducted regularly. Inglis said this gives an account of about 5,000 households in the seven counties and parishes included in the Spanish Natchez District.

See PROFESSOR, Page 3A

Professor

Continued from Page 1A

Other than censuses, Inglis found oaths of allegiance, returns, official and general correspondence, court records and land grants to name a few.

"These records are essential in telling us about what was going on here," Inglis said.

"This 'frontier' started out with vanguards, which were hunters and traders. They weren't interested in staying permanently and planting.

"The second wave of 'settlers'

"These records are essential in telling us about what was going on here."

—G. Douglas Inglis
Historian

were the cutting edge, who hunted and farmed a little. They like the open range and did little clearing. They moved on also."

It was the society builders that established Natchez as a permanent settlement, according to Inglis. Coming in with planting and farming in mind, they built stable homes and brought their families to

stay.

"The area was underway as a town, but wasn't mapped out and planned until the 1780s," Inglis said. "It was approved in 1789 and the first street to be cleared and named was Canal Street, which was at the time the furthest road toward the River."

The new records bring to life the Spanish-ruled period in Natchez history from 1779-98.

Inglis will hold a lecture at 9:15 a.m. today at the City Auditorium entitled, "In search of King Cotton: Waiting on the Gin-Colonial Natchez Agriculture."

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Congratulations 7-19-95 in order for festival

Organizers of the Natchez Literary Celebration deserve to whoop it up. The event, which marked its sixth year this year, was recognized by the Atlanta Committed for the Olympic Games.

The Cultural Olympiad selected the celebration to receive one of its 21 awards for excellence in promoting humanities and literature. The award was presented to co-director Carolyn Vance Smith on Monday in Atlanta.

Our local event stood among such notable festivals as the Miami, Fla., Book Fair and the William Faulkner Conference at the University of Mississippi.

What's unique about the Natchez Literary Celebration, though, is its reach of themes: from black heritage to cotton's contribution to the South. In addition, the celebration works hard to blend Natchez history and culture with literary education and achievement.

The three-day event brings to Natchez significant authors and speakers, thousands of visitors and a wide range of educators.

The celebration is also special by its openness to anyone and everyone who wishes to attend.

None of that happens by accident; it takes careful planning and tremendous dedication.

That hard work paid off Monday.

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The Natchez Literary Celebration includes mostly free events. The lecture and events schedule is as follows:

Thursday, June 1:

■ 9 a.m. G. Douglas Inglis of Seville, Spain, will present "In Search of King Cotton, or, Waiting on the Gin: Colonial Natchez Agriculture."



Inglis



Remini

■ 10:30 a.m. Robert V. Remini of the University of Illinois at Chicago will present "Andrew Jackson: Early Natchez Cotton Merchant."

■ 11:45 a.m. Lunch at Natchez Eola Hotel and lecture by Natchez author Greg Iles, "The Influence of Place on My Fiction." (\$12.50 ticket)



Iles



Gandy

■ 1:30 p.m. Dr. Thomas H. Gandy of Natchez will present "Crazy on Cotton: From Seed to Bale to Market."

■ 2:30 p.m. Cavett Taff of the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson will present "The Cotton Gin: A History and Demonstration."



Taylor



Ward

■ 3:30 p.m. William Banks Taylor of the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg will present "The Cotton Barons of Old Natchez."

■ 7:30 p.m. Jerry W. Ward Jr. of Tougaloo College will present "Behind the Scenes with the Mississippi Educational Television Documentary 'Richard Wright - Black Boy.'"



Alexander

■ 8 p.m. Showing of Mississippi ETV documentary "Richard Wright - Black Boy."

■ 9:30 p.m. Presentation of Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award to Mississippi author Margaret Walker Alexander.

■ 9:45 p.m. Reception (\$5 ticket)

Literary Celebration around the corner

Special to The Democrat

Literature and lifestyle influenced by the agrarian South will take the spotlight at the 1995 Natchez Literary Celebration to be held June 1 through 3, with internationally acclaimed poet and author Maya Angelou among the featured speakers.

Lectures, music, poetry, tours, food and exhibits will follow the theme, "King Cotton: Its Enduring Literary Legacy," exploring how 200 years of an agricultural environment affected what American people wrote, read, wore and thought.

Angelou, one of the 20th century's most celebrated women, will present, "The Value of Ethnic, Economic and Religious Diversity in All Undertakings." Her works draw on childhood experiences in rural Arkansas, where she lived close to the land and to people who worked on it.

"Maya Angelou's talk in Natchez will no doubt be a night to remember," Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-director of the Celebration and an English instructor at **Copiah-Lincoln Community College's** Natchez campus, said. "We expect the City Auditorium to be jam-packed."

Exploring the cotton theme comes about 200 years since Eli Whitney invented the gin in 1793, Smith said. "Since then, cotton has been the region's No. 1 crop. It is quite fitting, two centuries later, for the 1995 Natchez Literary Celebration to explore the impact of agri-

culture, and, in particular, of cotton, on various aspects of literature," she said.

The Celebration will include 16 lectures by scholars and authors. Included on the program are Robert V. Remini of the University of Illinois, who will present, "Andrew Jackson: Early Cotton Merchant;" William Banks Taylor of the University of Southern Mississippi, "The Cotton Barons of Old Natchez;" And Ronald L. F. Davis of California State University at Northridge, "The Reconstruction Era: The Emergence of John Roy Lynch and Other Outstanding Black Political Leaders."

Other highlights of the event include a showing of the 1936 film version of "Show Boat" and a concert of music from the film by the U.S. Marine Corps Band. Another special offering will be the presentation of the Mississippi Educational Television documentary on the life of Natchez-born writer Richard Wright.

Former Mississippi Gov. William F. Winter, who is president of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Board of Trustees, will serve as director of proceedings as he has for the past five conferences.

A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council helps to provide many of these programs free.

For more information call the Convention and Visitors Bureau, 446-6345.

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The Natchez Democratic-Belt

FOUNDERS: Carolyn Vance Smith, founder of the Natchez Literary Celebration, and Dr. David Blackburn, founder of the Natchez Opera Festival, have brought new forms of enjoyment to the city.

Natchez festivals provide something for everyone

By MIKE WILLEY
The Natchez Democrat

Two of Natchez's newest attractions are generating international interest.

The sixth annual Natchez Literary Celebration and the fifth annual Natchez Opera Festival have become the focus of excitement partly because of the energy of their founders, Carolyn Vance Smith and Dr. David Blackburn.

"The Natchez Literary Celebration draws from you can make education appealing," said Smith, who has been at Capital-Lincoln Community College's Natchez campus since it opened in 1972.

"We have such a rich culture we can dip into. Our literary celebration programs are based on history, fiction, poetry and movies. Something this diverse can appeal to so many disciplines. It can attract

"Something this diverse can appeal to so many disciplines; it can attract audiences from children to octogenarians, from the undereducated to university Ph.D.s."

—Carolyn Vance Smith
Natchez Literary Celebration, founder

audiences from children to octogenarians, from the undereducated to university Ph.D.s. And the festival that ties them all together is the printed word."

Planned to run from June 1-3, the Literary Celebration this year has the theme of "King Cotton: Its Enduring Literary Legacy." Sponsored by Capital-Lincoln Community College, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and the National Park Service, the program links 19 lectures on a variety of topics plus appearances by internationally known figures like Maya Angelou, author of 11

books, including "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings."

"In addition to Maya, we're going to have a double-pronged program," said Smith. "We'll have lectures on Edna Porter, the author of 'Showboat,' and on Florence Zerkow, the producer who first put 'Showboat' on the stage. And, in addition, we'll have the United States Marine Corps Band performing a free performance of the score from 'Showboat.'"

Most activities of the Natchez Literary Festival will take place at the Natchez Municipal Auditorium. **See FESTIVAL, Page 4**

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Festivals

Continued from Page 3

ism, according to Smith. All activities are open to the public. Lectures range from a fee of \$10 per day or \$20 for all three days, and many free events are planned.

"The program shows how things interlock," said Smith. "And the thread that unites them all is the printed word."

"It's exciting," said Smith, "to realize that in our age of visual learning, there is still this deep yearning for the printed word."

Dr. David Blackburn, artistic director of the Natchez Opera Festival, shares Smith's sense of excitement.

"We've had more growth this year than in any other year of the opera festival," Blackburn said. "We're no longer a young program. In human terms, I'd say we're graduated from college, we've made good grades, and there's a sense of maturity about us."

The theme of this year's opera festival is "The Best of the Family," according to Blackburn. "We have something for everyone," said Blackburn of his festival which runs from April 29 to May 27.

"Our opening gala event will be called 'A Night of Stars,'" Blackburn said. "The 28th of April will be our kickoff event - many of the major stars who will be performing in the festival will be there. Then we'll go on to 'The Student Prince,' it's one of the most popu-



The Natchez Democrat photo

BOOK LOVERS: During a break at the 1994 Natchez Literary Celebration at the City Auditorium, participants take time to purchase books about Mississippi's literary heritage.

lar operas ever written."

Blackburn also listed the productions of "Hansel and Gretel" and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" as aimed at the whole family. "We have wonderful casts for these productions," Blackburn said. "This year's program will be our biggest undertaking by far, especially when you consider our recent series, the plantation

trickals, and our tremendous education program for elementary and high school students and community concerns."

Co-sponsoring the Natchez Opera Festival will be a performance of "Rigoletto" on May 21.

"It's one of Verdi's major operas," he said. "I call it the 'big pond' of opera. People will recognize many, many of the tunes."

Blackburn is particularly proud of the opera festival's new office. "Just call 612-5250 for individual tickets," he said. "Pilgrimage Tours will be handling block tickets and food and breakfast arrangements."

"This has become a major business," said Blackburn of the opera festival's attractions, most of which will be held at the Natchez Municipal Auditorium.

Speaker reveals loyalty

By MICHAEL WRIGHT
The Natchez Democrat

Being the Natchez Literary Celebration on Thursday, it was expected that one of the more prominent speakers would be...

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Natchez LITERARY CELEBRATION

Social mover takes second Wright award

By MICHAEL WRIGHT
The Natchez Democrat

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Speaker...

Pictures tell tale of cotton

By MICHAEL WRIGHT
The Natchez Democrat

Local historian Dr. Thomas H....

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PICTORIAL LOOK AT COTTON: Dr. Thomas H. Gandy, local historian, shows one of the four-panels of slides he has on cotton...

City put at center of world's stage

By MICHAEL WRIGHT
The Natchez Democrat

On Thursday, "King James" was...

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Civil War shatters mistress' world

By MICHAEL WRIGHT
The Natchez Democrat

...the late...

...the late...

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...the late...

...would you like to live in a condo? Or would a droop condo be better?" was a long pause. Then he Veil — our plans are not up as yet. I will have to get you."

...would you believe, I card from Joe again? — ARIZONA

R TOM: I believe you. ingratulations for having a rather sticky situation t and diplomacy.

R ABBY: I have often



Natchez Democrat/Submitted photo

...nson County celebrat- he was born March 1, and Mary Jones. She of her sisters remain: 36. She will be honored ne of Bessie M. Jones 1.

for March migration

...ing From the Ruins" (Ran- louse), Daniel Peters' adven- of an archaeological team in lexican jungle; and "Blue e" (Scribner), 12 stories of America by David Long.

...nonfiction titles include two - Patrick's Day: "Country" (St. Martin's), Alice Tay- fourth volume of reminis- about life in County Cork; How the Irish Saved Civi- on" (Doubleday). Thomas' s chronicle of how Ireland ved ancient scholarship and e during the Dark Ages.

...divorced man" instead of a bachelor?

A genuine bachelor, in my book, is a man who has never married.

— BOSTON BACHELOR

DEAR BACHELOR: Sorry, you must be looking in the wrong book. My Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (Tenth Edition) defines a bachelor as "a: an unmarried man; b: a male animal (as a fur seal) without a mate during breeding time." So, widowers and divorced men may appropriately

Abby, how about having him come to my house and help me throw away the plastic "silverware" and paper plates? He won't have to worry about the pots and pans, because everyone will be too busy raving about the delicious dessert he brought.

I have two daughters who would look at this man with stars in their eyes and wonder how a man like this came out of extinction. He's too good to be true! — KRIS IN DESTIN, FLA.

Literary Celebration around the corner

Special to The Democrat

Literature and lifestyle influenced by the agrarian South will take the spotlight at the 1995 Natchez Literary Celebration to be held June 1 through 3, with internationally acclaimed poet and author Maya Angelou among the featured speakers.

Lectures, music, poetry, tours, food and exhibits will follow the theme, "King Cotton: Its Enduring Literary Legacy," exploring how 200 years of an agricultural environment affected what American people wrote, read, wore and thought.

Angelou, one of the 20th century's most celebrated women, will present, "The Value of Ethnic, Economic and Religious Diversity in All Undertakings." Her works draw on childhood experiences in rural Arkansas, where she lived close to the land and to people who worked on it.

"Maya Angelou's talk in Natchez will no doubt be a night to remember," Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-director of the Celebration and an English instructor at Copiah-Lincoln Community College's Natchez campus, said. "We expect the City Auditorium to be jam-packed."

Exploring the cotton theme comes about 200 years since Eli Whitney invented the gin in 1793. Smith said. "Since then, cotton has been the region's No. 1 crop. It is quite fitting, two centuries later, for the 1995 Natchez Literary Celebration to explore the impact of agri-

culture, and, in particular, of cotton, on various aspects of literature," she said.

The Celebration will include 16 lectures by scholars and authors. Included on the program are Robert V. Remini of the University of Illinois, who will present, "Andrew Jackson: Early Cotton Merchant;" William Banks Taylor of the University of Southern Mississippi, "The Cotton Barons of Old Natchez;" And Ronald L. F. Davis of California State University at Northridge, "The Reconstruction Era: The Emergence of John Roy Lynch and Other Outstanding Black Political Leaders."

Other highlights of the event include a showing of the 1936 film version of "Show Boat" and a concert of music from the film by the U.S. Marine Corps Band. Another special offering will be the presentation of the Mississippi Educational Television documentary on the life of Natchez-born writer Richard Wright.

Former Mississippi Gov. William F. Winter, who is president of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Board of Trustees, will serve as director of proceedings as he has for the past five conferences.

A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council helps to provide many of these programs free.

For more information call the Convention and Visitors Bureau, 446-6345.

55TH ANNIVERSARY: Mr. and Mrs. Foster's 55th wedding anniversary in 1940 in Winona by Foster's b Both are from Natchez. They Foster Schuchs, Jessie Foster Watts and Bette Foster Poole. dren and 10 great-grandchildre

Local college instructor teaches survival Spanish

Linda Flynn, instructor of Spanish at Co-Lin Community College in Natchez recently participated in Spanish-language training for narcotic agents and highway patrol personnel from Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana.

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In March '95, Haven Rehabilitation commitment to building independence

The Natchez Democrat
Sunday, March 6, 1995

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1995 Literary Celebration explores the impact of cotton on Southern residents

Special to The Democrat

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Lectures, music, poetry, tours, food and exhibits will follow the theme, "King Cotton: Its Enduring Literary Legacy," exploring how 200 years of an agricultural environment affected what American people wrote, read, wore and thought.

Angelou, one of the 20th century's most celebrated women, will present, "The Value of Ethnic, Economic and Religious Diversity in All Undertakings," on June 2 at 8 p.m. Her works draw on childhood experiences in rural Arkansas, where she lived close to the land and to people who worked on it.

"Maya Angelou's talk in Natchez will no doubt be a night to remember," Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-director of the Celebration and an English instructor at Copiah-Lincoln Community College's Natchez campus, said. "We expect the City Auditorium to be jam-packed."

Exploring the cotton theme comes about 200 years since Eli Whitney invented the gin in 1793, Smith said. "Since then, cotton has been the region's No. 1 crop. It is quite fitting, two centuries later, for the 1995 Natchez Literary Celebration to explore the impact of agriculture, and, in particular, of cotton, on various aspects of literature," she said.

Cavett Taff, exhibits curator for the Old Capitol Museum in Jack-

son and one of the speakers at the celebration, will demonstrate the operation of an old cotton gin. Taff said the effects of cotton on the American scene were far greater than many people realize today.

"Cotton dominated the national economy like no other enterprise," Taff said. "The power of cotton in that age can be compared to the power of oil today. If one country controlled 75 percent of the world's oil at this time, it would have roughly the power cotton exercised for the United States in 1860."

The Literary Celebration is co-sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln, the National Park Service and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Working with Smith as co-chairmen are James F. Barnett Jr., director of historic properties at Jefferson College and Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, and Robert Dodson, superintendent of the Natchez National Historical Park.

The Celebration will include 16 lectures by scholars and authors. Included on the program are Robert V. Remini of the University of Illinois, who will present, "Andrew Jackson: Early Cotton Merchant;" William Banks Taylor of the University of Southern Mississippi, "The Cotton Barons of Old Natchez;" and Ronald L. F. Davis of California State University at Northridge. "The

Reconstruction Era: The Emergence of John Roy Lynch and Other Outstanding Black Political Leaders."

Other lecturers will be Dr. Joanne Hawks of the University of Mississippi, whose program will be, "Reduced Circumstances: The Post-Civil War Life of Julia Nutt of Longwood in Natchez;"

Dr. Thomas H. Gandy of Natchez, "Crazy on Cotton: From Seed to Bale to Market;" and author Dr. Richard Ziegfeld of Cleveland, Ohio, "Show Boat: The Making of an Epoch."

Also on the program are Dr. G. Douglas Inglis of Seville, Spain, with "In Search of King Cotton, or Waiting on the Gin: Colonial Natchez, Agriculture;" author Greg Iles of Natchez, "The Influence of Place on My Fiction;" Dr. Jerry W. Ward of Tougaloo College, who will present "Behind the Scenes with the Mississippi Educational Television documentary 'Black Boy: The Story of Richard Wright,'" and Charles L. Blockson, curator of the African-American Collection at Temple University in Philadelphia, Penn., with "African-American History Above Ground and Underground."

John Allen Collier of Southaven will present, "Reminiscences of a Mississippi Delta Planter;" Dr. Berry Morgan of George Washington University in Washington,

D. C., "The Land is the Link Between the Soul and the Mind;" and Dr. Tom Rankin of the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture, with Emma Knowlton Lytle of Gunnison, presenting "Raisin Cotton in the Mississippi Delta: A Day in the Life of Perthshire Plantation."

State Sen. John Horhn of Jackson will offer a dramatic interpretation titled, "The Impact of the Plantation on the Works of William Faulkner, Richard Wright and Ernest Gaines;" Dr. Herschel Gower of Vanderbilt University, "Charles G. Dahlgren of Natchez — Into Cotton and a Lot Else;" and Dr. Bertram Wyatt Brown of the University of Florida, "The Literary Percys: Male and Female Writers."

Other highlights of the event include a showing of the 1936 film version of "Show Boat" and a concert of music from the film by the U.S. Marine Corps Band. Another special offering will be the presentation of the Mississippi Educational Television documentary on the life of Natchez-born writer Richard Wright.

A pre-conference workshop on May 31 will instruct participants in using historical records of the Spanish era which lecturer Inglis has compiled in a computer database.

Former Mississippi Gov. William F. Winter, who is president of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Board of Trustees, will serve as director of proceedings as he has for the past five conferences.

For more information call the Convention and Visitors Bureau, 446-6345.

"Cotton dominated the national economy like no other enterprise...it can be compared to the power of oil today."

—Cavett Taff
curator for the Old Capitol
Museum in Jackson



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Lecture Chairmen



Mr. Elbert Hilliard



Mr. Eric Adams



Mr. Stephen Barlow



Mr. Thomas M. Meyer



Mr. David G. Taylor

The 1995 Natchez Literary Celebration takes great pleasure in presenting the lecture chairmen for this year's events. Mr. Elbert Hilliard, Director, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson; Mr. Eric Adams, Dean, Capital-Liberty Community College, Natchez Campus; Dr. Eric Adams, Executive Director, Mississippi Humanities Council, Jackson; Mr. John C. Hill, Executive Director, Mississippi State University, Jackson; Dr. John R. Hill, Professor of History, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg; Mr. Stephen Barlow, President, Natchez Natchez Foundation, Natchez; Mr. Eric Adams, Executive Director, Natchez University & State Bureau, Natchez; Dr. David G. Taylor, President of Southern, Capital-Liberty Community College, Brookhaven; Dr. Stephen Barlow, Acting President, Jones State University, Louisiana; Dr. David G. Taylor, Professor of History, American University at Mississippi, Oxford; Dr. Charles L. Taylor, Chairman, History Department, Mississippi State University, Hattiesburg; Dr. William Barrett, President of English, Natchez Community College, Natchez Campus; Jackson; and Mr. John R. Hill, Executive Director, State Board for Community and Junior College, Jackson.



Mr. David Adams



Mr. John C. Hill



Mr. John R. Hill



Mr. Charles Adams



Mr. James H. Hill



Mr. Stephen Barlow



Mr. Charles Taylor



Mr. William Barrett



Mr. John R. Hill

Director of Proceedings

The Honorable William F. Winter, former Governor of Mississippi, returns for the sixth year to serve as Director of Proceedings for the 1995 Natchez Literary Celebration. Mr. Winter, an attorney and a historian, is President of the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in Jackson. Author of three books, *History of Mississippi*, *Saturday's Constitution Today*, and *Mississippi's Heroes*, he is past-Chairman of the Commission on the Future of the South and the Foundation for the Markland.



Mississippi Humanities Council Evaluator

A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, administered through the Mississippi Humanities Council, enables the 1995 Natchez Literary Celebration to offer many free events. At the Celebration an official evaluator for the Humanities Council is Mrs. Rosie Corder, an instructor of English at Hinds Community College in Raymond.



Officials Welcome Celebration Participants

Making opening remarks and introductions at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 1, will be Dr. Howell C. Carter, Dean of Instruction, Capital-Liberty Community College in Wesson, Mississippi; the Honorable Larry L. "Beau" Brown, Mayor of Natchez; and the Honorable Thomas J. O'Brien, Adams County Chancery Clerk.



Dr. Howell C. Carter



Mayor Larry L. Brown

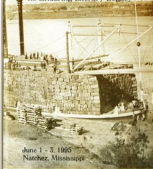


Mr. Thomas J. O'Brien

The Sixth Annual Natchez Literary Celebration presents

King Cotton:

Its Enduring Literary Legacy



June 1 - 3, 1995
Natchez, Mississippi

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